

FCC REPORT

JULY – SEPT. 2013

CRIME & VIOLENCE

6AM - 7/10

AROUND THE REGION, A KICKOFF EVENT IS SET FOR TODAY FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL "MARYLAND CRIME VICTIMS FUND RUN." RUNNERS CAN REGISTER FOR THE RACE BETWEEN EIGHT AND TEN THIS MORNING, AT THE STARBUCKS ON BALTIMORE AVENUE IN COLLEGE PARK. THE RACE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 19TH ON THE PAINT BRANCH PARK TRAIL. PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S CRIME VICTIMS' FUND.

6AM - 8/2

HERE'S NEW EVIDENCE THAT HOTTER TEMPERATURES LEAD TO HOTTER TEMPER. AND IT HAPPENS NOT ONLY ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, BUT GLOBALLY. RESEARCHERS ANALYZED 60 STUDIES. THEY INVOLVED EVERYTHING FROM HISTORIC EMPIRE COLLAPSES TO VIOLENT CRIME RATES IN THE U.S. THE SCIENTISTS FOUND A COMMON THREAD OVER CENTURIES. EXTREME WEATHER- VERY HOT OR DRY, MEANS MORE VIOLENCE.

12PM - 8/21

MORE THAN 20 MEN FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR SOLICITING PROSTITUTES THANKS TO A BIG BUST BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE. OFFICERS ARRESTED 23 MEN IN SPRINGFIELD, FALLS CHURCH, HERNDON AND TYSONS CORNER HOTELS. OFFICERS WORKED UNDERCOVER TO MAKE THE ARRESTS. THE ORGANIZED CRIME AND NARCOTICS DIVISION LED THE INVESTIGATION.

5PM - 8/26

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE HOPE SOMEONE RECOGNIZES THESE TWO PEOPLE. POLICE SAY THE MAN RACKED UP 20,000 DOLLARS IN CHARGES ON A CREDIT CARD UNDER THE NAME OF A SILVER SPRING MAN. A SECURITY CAMERA CAPTURED THE MAN AND A SECOND SUSPECT USING THE CARD AT TARGET STORES IN LAUREL AND LARGO. IF YOU RECOGNIZE THEM -- CALL MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE OR CRIME SOLVERS.

6PM - 8/17

D-C POLICE INVESTIGATING TWO SEPARATE SHOOTINGS IN SOUTHEAST THAT LEFT ONE MAN DEAD AND TWO PEOPLE INJURED. OFFICERS FOUND JAVAR ALLEN SHOT TO DEATH JUST BEFORE 12:30 THIS MORNING ON 23-RD STREET. LESS THAN EIGHT HOURS LATER, A MAN AND A WOMAN WERE SHOT ON ELMIRA STREET. THEY WERE CONSCIOUS AND BREATHING AT THE SCENE. POLICE DON'T HAVE SUSPECTS IN EITHER CASE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4:30AM - 7/10

ALSO ON THE AGENDA TODAY -- D-C COUNCILMEMBER MARION BARRY WANTS *NEW CITY HIRES TO LIVE IN THE DISTRICT OR AT LEAST HAVE PLANS TO MOVE THERE. RIGHT NOW, FEWER THAN HALF OF CURRENT EMPLOYEES HAVE A D-C ADDRESS. ANOTHER BIG VOTE TODAY COULD RESTRICT SMOKING IN THE DISTRICT. THE PROPOSAL WOULD STOP PEOPLE FROM LIGHTING UP WITHIN 25 FEET OF ANY CITY-OWNED PARK, COMMUNITY OR REC CENTER, HIKING TRAIL AND BUS STOP.

4:30AM - 9/9

IN THE DAY AHEAD.... MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL ANNOUNCE THEIR NEW PLAN TO TAKE ON PANHANDLING. THIS NEW PROGRAM ENCOURAGES DRIVERS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED BY CONTRIBUTING TO COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES RATHER THAN GIVING CASH DIRECTLY TO PANHANDLERS. OFFICIALS SAY PANHANDELING CONTRIBUTES TO DISTRACTED DRIVING AND MORE DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS.

12PM - 7/10

MEANWHILE, THE D.C. COUNCIL WILL VOTE TODAY ON A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO OBTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSES AND I-D'S. IT WILL ALSO CONSIDER A PLAN TO MOVE THE CITY'S 20-14 MAYORAL PRIMARY FROM APRIL TO JUNE. AND IT WILL VOTE ON A NEW SMOKING BAN. THAT BILL BANS SMOKING WITHIN 25 FEET OF ANY CITY-OWNED PARK, REC CENTER, HIKING TRAIL, OR BUS STOP.

5PM - 9/16

D-C COUNCIL-MEMBER AND MAYORAL CANDIDATE TOMMY WELLS PLANS TO INTRODUCE A BILL TO RAISE THE DISTRICT'S MINIMUM WAGE. UNDER WELLS' LEGISLATION -- THE MINIMUM WAGE WOULD GO UP EACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO 10-25 AN HOUR. THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT MINIMUM WAGE IS 8-25 AN HOUR. MAYOR GRAY RECENTLY VETOED A BILL THAT WOULD FORCE BIG BOX STORES TO PAY EMPLOYEES 12-50 AN HOUR.

11PM - 9/22

A BILL BEFORE THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL WOULD ATTEMPT TO TACKLE OBESITY. THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE RESTAURANTS WITH FIVE OR MORE LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY TO LIST THE CALORIE AND SALT CONTENT OF ITS MENU ITEMS. THOSE THAT DON'T COMPLY WOULD FACE A ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR FINE. COUNCILMAN ERIC OLSON INTRODUCED THE BILL. HE SAYS RECENT STUDIES SHOW SEVEN OUT OF TEN RESIDENTS IN THE COUNTY ARE OVERWEIGHT OR EVEN OBESE.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

4:30PM - 7/1

VIRGINIA IS ALSO CRACKING DOWN ON REPEAT DRUNK DRIVERS. BEGINNING TODAY -- THE LAW MAKES CERTAIN REPEAT OFFENSES A FELONY. THOSE CONVICTED FACE A MANDATORY ONE-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE AND A MINIMUM 1,000 DOLLAR FINE. LAST YEAR -- NEARLY 230 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES IN VIRGINIA.

12PM - 9/10

A MARYLAND WOMAN HAS BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL AFTER HER 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER DIED OF A DRUG OVERDOSE. PAULA SHIPLEY IS CHARGED WITH SECOND-DEGREE MURDER IN CARROLL COUNTY. HER DAUGHTER CASSANDRA DIED IN MARCH AT A HOME IN WESTMINSTER. AN AUTOPSY FOUND THE GIRL HAD A LETHAL DOSE OF NARCOTICS... BUT OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS WERE IN HER SYSTEM TOO.

5PM - 7/11

THE D-C SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL REQUIRE RANDOM DRUG TESTING FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES STARTING IN THE FALL. ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST, THE D-C OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL CONDEMNED THE LACK OF MANDATED TESTING IN A REPORT LAST MONTH. A SCHOOLS SPOKESWOMAN SAYS EMPLOYEES WILL BE SUBJECT TO TESTS WHEN DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE IS SUSPECTED AND IN CERTAIN OTHER SITUATIONS.

11PM - 8/14

A COACH AND MENTOR TO THOUSANDS OF BOYS IN THE D-C AREA WAS INDICTED ON DRUG CHARGES TONIGHT. OUR NEWS PARTNER W-T-O-P REPORTS CURTIS MALONE PLEADED NOT GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT. POLICE ARRESTED MALONE AUGUST NINTH AFTER A YEAR-LONG INVESTIGATION BY THE D-E-A AND FEDERAL AGENTS. PROSECUTORS SAY HE SOLD HEROINE AND COCAINE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. MALONE CO-FOUNDED D.C. ASSAULT, A NONPROFIT YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM.

11PM - 9/12

A FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTED A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS WITH PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. ACCORDING TO THE INDICTMENT... WILLIAM GAZAFI SENT CHILD PORN TO AN UNDERCOVER OFFICER DURING AN ONLINE CHAT. THE UNDERCOVER OFFICER SAYS GAZAFI ADMITTED TO DRUGGING AND MOLESTING SEVERAL CHILDREN. GAZAFI FACES UP TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON IF CONVICTED.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

6AM - 9/9

PEOPLE WHO LIVE NEAR WHERE THE PROPOSED PURPLE LINE WOULD BE BUILT.. CAN WEIGH IN TONIGHT AT A PUBLIC MEETING. BUT THEY'LL NOW BE ASKED WHICH ROUTE THEY PREFER.. NOT WHETHER THEY WANT THE NEW TRAIN. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD FROM SIX TO NINE P.M. AT THE BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER. IT'S LOCATED ON EDGEMOOR LANE IN BETHESDA.

12PM - 8/12

VIENNA RESIDENTS HAVE REASON TO CELEBRATE. IT'S THE COUNTRY'S THIRD BEST SMALL TOWN... ACCORDING TO MONEY MAGAZINE. IT'S PART OF THE PUBLICATION'S "BEST PLACES TO LIVE" SURVEY.

VIENNA GOT HIGH MARKS FOR WALKABILITY... ITS HISTORIC CENTER... AND UNIQUE BUSINESSES. OF COURSE... THERE WERE SOME DRAWBACKS... LIKE HIGH REAL ESTATE PRICES AND BAD TRAFFIC... WHICH YOU'LL FIND JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE IN OUR REGION. TWO OTHER TOWNS IN OUR AREA WERE ALSO LISTED, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA CAME IN 35TH. MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND RANKED 41ST.

5PM - 7/30

HERE'S SOME GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS- U-S HOME PRICES ROSE 12-POINT-TWO PERCENT IN MAY. ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD-AND-POOR'S/CASE-SHILLER INDEX, THAT'S THE BIGGEST ANNUAL GAIN SINCE MARCH 2006, NEAR THE PEAK OF THE HOUSING BUBBLE. THE INCREASE SHOWS THE HOUSING RECOVERY IS STRENGTHENING. HOWEVER, THE DISTRICT SAW ONE OF THE SMALLEST YEARLY GAINS AT SIX AND A HALF PERCENT.

6PM - 8/14

A JUDGE IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA HAS DISMISSED THE NATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM'S LAWSUIT OVER THE ASSESSED VALUE OF ITS PROPERTY. THE LAWSUIT CLAIMED THAT FREDERICKSBURG'S COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE OFFICE HAD SIGNIFICANTLY INFLATED THE PROPERTY'S VALUE. THE 38-ACRE PROPERTY OVERLOOKING I-95 IS ASSESSED AT MORE THAN SEVEN AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS. THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG WANTS TO SELL THE MUSEUM AT AUCTION TO SATISFY A REAL ESTATE TAX DEBT.

HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

4:30AM - 7/3

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT'S DELAYING A KEY PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL LAW. THE REQUIREMENT THAT MEDIUM AND LARGE COMPANIES OFFER EMPLOYEES AFFORDABLE COVERAGE WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1ST OF NEXT YEAR. THAT REQUIREMENT WILL NOW BE DELAYED UNTIL 20-15. THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT'S RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM BUSINESS GROUPS FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO COMPLY.

6AM - 9/6

A FIRST-OF-ITS KIND RETREAT FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES OPENS TODAY IN BLUEMONT, VIRGINIA IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN. BOULDER CREST RETREAT IS FOR PEOPLE WHO'VE UNDERGONE REHABILITATION AT WALTER REED NATIONAL MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER. IT'S FREE AND PROVIDES RURAL REFUGE FROM THE CLINICAL SETTING WOUNDED WARRIORS EXPERIENCE DURING THEIR RECOVERY.

12PM - 7/15

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS A HEALTH CARE CLINIC THAT PERFORMED MORE ABORTIONS THAN ANY OTHER FACILITY IN VIRGINIA IS NOW CLOSED. NOVA WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE OPERATED IN FAIRFAX SINCE 2006. UNDER A NEW LAW PASSED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, ABORTION PROVIDERS MUST HAVE HOSPITAL GRADE FACILITIES, AND NOVA WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE LIKELY NEEDED TO UPGRADE OR MOVE FROM ITS LOCATION TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS.

5PM - 8/23

MARYLAND'S HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED THREE CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS. THE THREE ADULTS DIAGNOSED ARE IN THE BALTIMORE AREA. HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THEY DETECTED THE VIRUS IN MOSQUITO POOLS COLLECTED IN MONTGOMERY AND WORCESTER COUNTIES. THE STATE'S HEALTH SECRETARY IS ADVISING EVERYONE TO AVOID BEING OUTSIDE AT DAWN AND DUSK. HE ALSO RECOMMENDS WEARING HATS, LONG SLEEVES AND LONG PANTS.

6PM - 8/23

BEGINNING NEXT YEAR -- THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE WORKING SPOUSES OF ITS EMPLOYEES. U-V-A SAYS THE CHANGE ONLY AFFECTS SPOUSES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE THROUGH THEIR OWN EMPLOYERS. COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN WILL STAY THE SAME. DELIVERY SERVICE U-P-S MADE A SIMILAR CHANGE EARLIER THIS WEEK.

RACIAL, ETHIC, RELIGIOUS & SEX

5AM - 8/1

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE TAKES CENTER STAGE IN THE DAY AHEAD. THE A-C-L-U AND THE GAY RIGHTS GROUP LAMBDA LEGAL WILL FILE A LAWSUIT IN FEDERAL COURT CHALLENGING VIRGINIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BANNING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. THE LAWSUIT COMES MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER THE U-S SUPREME COURT RULED THE FEDERAL DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

5AM - 9/12

GARBAGE COLLECTION WORKERS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO WORK THIS MORNING AFTER THEIR PROTEST TURNED VIOLENT. THIS A-B-C SEVEN VIDEO SHOWS THE DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION SECONDS AFTER A STRIKER WAS HIT BY A GARBAGE TRUCK. ABOUT 50 WORKERS WERE ON STRIKE FOR TWO DAYS FROM POTOMAC DISPOSAL. WHEN THEY RETURNED WEDNESDAY, THE COMPANY SAID IT DIDN'T HAVE WORK FOR STRIKERS. THE MAN WAS NOT SERIOUSLY HURT IN THE ACCIDENT.

12PM - 9/25

CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST MOSQUE IN VIRGINIA BEACH WILL BEGIN BY SPRING. THE CITY COUNCIL GAVE THE PROJECT THE GREEN LIGHT YESTERDAY. WE TOLD YOU THAT SOME NEIGHBORS OPPOSED THE PLAN... SAYING THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT TRAFFIC, NOT RELIGION.

6PM - 7/11

A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT HAS REJECTED LIBERTY UNIVERSITY'S EFFORT TO OVERTURN A REQUIREMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE REFORM LAW. THE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY HAD ARGUED THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR BIRTH CONTROL AND POSSIBLY EVEN ABORTIONS VIOLATES ITS RELIGIOUS RIGHTS. THE LAWSUIT CHALLENGED THE REQUIREMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS TO BUY HEALTH INSURANCE, CALLING IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

6PM - 9/23

A CONTROVERSIAL D-C MONUMENT HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO VANDALS. OVER THE WEEKEND, SOMEONE TOPPLED AN 850-POUND GRANITE TABLET INSCRIBED WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. IT SITS OUTSIDE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHRISTIAN GROUP "FAITH AND ACTION," BEHIND THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING. POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY

5AM - 7/12

THEY'RE CALLED TEAMSTERS -- AND THIS MORNING, THOSE WORKERS WHO HELP GET PACKAGES TO THEIR DESTINATIONS WILL RALLY AGAINST THE UNITED PARCEL SERVICE. U-P-S VOTED DOWN HEALTHCARE BENEFITS AND FULL-TIME JOBS IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NATION'S BIGGEST UNION. THE RALLY STARTS AT 10 IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON.

5AM - 7/17

GOOD NEWS, CHANCES ARE YOU'LL GET A RAISE NEXT YEAR. BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. A NEW SURVEY SHOWS EMPLOYERS PLAN ON INCREASING SALARIES BY ALMOST THREE PERCENT ON AVERAGE IN 20-14. THAT'S MORE THAN THIS YEAR, BUT A FAR CRY FROM THE THREE AND A HALF PERCENT WE SAW IN THE MIDDLE PART OF THE LAST DECADE.

5AM - 8/29

IN THE DAY AHEAD, A JOB FAIR COULD BE THE KEY TO YOUR NEXT PAYCHECK. CONGRESSWOMAN DONNA EDWARDS IS HOSTING A JOB FAIR AT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SPORTS AND LEARNING COMPLEX ABOUT 90 EMPLOYERS WILL BE THERE LOOKING TO HIRE. THE JOB FAIR RUNS FROM TEN TO TWO.

12PM - 8/12

MARYLAND CONGRESSMAN JOHN DELANEY IS LAUNCHING A GRASS ROOTS EFFORT TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN MARYLAND. CURRENTLY WORKERS GET AT LEAST SEVEN TWENTY FIVE AN HOUR. DELANEY SAYS 19 OTHER STATES HAVE A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE THAN MARYLAND AND MANY OF THEM HAVE A LOWER COST OF LIVING. A BILL TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE TO TEN DOLLARS AN HOUR FAILED IN THE STATE SENATE THIS YEAR.

5PM - 9/3

AND SPEAKING OF JOBS, MAYOR GRAY HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO SIGN OR VETO THE DISTRICT'S LIVING WAGE BILL. HE WOULD NOT TALK ABOUT THE BILL TODAY, SAYING HE HAS TEN DAYS BEFORE HE HAS TO DECIDE. THE BILL REQUIRES LARGE RETAILERS LIKE WAL-MART TO PAY ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES AT LEAST TWELVE-50 AN HOUR. WAL-MART SAYS IF THE BILL BECOMES LAW, IT WILL CANCEL AT LEAST THREE OF THE SIX STORES IT PLANS TO BUILD IN THE DISTRICT.

6PM - 9/25

VIRGINIA HAS CLAIMED CRITICAL BRAGGING RIGHTS IN THE ONGOING STRUGGLE TO CREATE JOBS. FORBES MAGAZINE RANKED THE COMMONWEALTH THE TOP STATE FOR BUSINESS. THE REPORT CITED BUSINESS FRIENDLY LAWS, AND STRONG INCENTIVES. MARYLAND RANKED EIGHTEENTH.

EDUCATION

4:30AM - 8/26

AND IN THE DISTRICT -- CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICIALS WANT TO RANK PRESCHOOLS. THE RANKING SYSTEM WOULD BE BASED LARGELY ON READING AND MATH TEST SCORES FOR CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 3. ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST... HUNDREDS OF PARENTS SIGNED A PETITION AGAINST THE RANKING SYSTEM. THEY WANT PRESCHOOLS EVALUATED MOSTLY ON A CHILD'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

6AM - 7/30

AROUND THE REGION, STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES WILL BE RELEASED TODAY FOR D.C. PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE DISTRICT EVALUATES PROFICIENCY IN MATH, READING, SCIENCE, AND WRITING. LAST YEAR, THERE WERE ONLY MODEST GAINS IN ELEMENTARY MATH AND READING. IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS, PROFICIENCY IN THOSE SUBJECTS DROPPED SLIGHTLY.

6AM - 8/7

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WILL REDUCE THE MONEY IT GIVES LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME STUDENTS IN THE FORM OF GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL'S ACCESS U-V-A PROGRAM WILL BEGIN WITH THE 20-14 -- 20-15 SCHOOL YEAR. U-VA STARTED THE PROGRAM NINE YEARS AGO TO HELP FAMILIES MAKING LESS THAN TWICE THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE.

6AM - 8/21

AROUND THE REGION.. ALL JUNIORS AND SENIORS IN THE D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THE S-A-T FOR FREE THIS YEAR. MAYOR VINCENT GRAY SAYS THE AIM IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE EXAM. REGISTRATION NORMALLY COSTS EACH STUDENT 51 DOLLARS. BUT THIS YEAR, THE CITY GOVERNMENT WILL PICK UP THE TAB.

6AM - 9/23

HISTORIC TEST SCORES IN D-C SCHOOLS CAME FROM A DECISION TO SCORE THE EXAMS A CERTAIN WAY. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST. THE 2013 TEST RESULTS SHOWED FOUR-POINT GAINS IN MATH -- EVEN THOUGH STUDENTS GOT MORE ANSWERS WRONG THAN IN 2012. D-C TEACHERS HAD PROPOSED A NEW GRADING SCALE with HIGHER STANDARDS. BUT SCHOOL OFFICIALS PASSED ON THE NEW SCALE BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED DECLINES IN MATH PROFICIENCY. EXPERTS TOLD THE POST IT'S REASONABLE DECISION TO KEEP SCORES COMPARABLE TO PREVIOUS YEARS.

FAMILY ISSUES

4:30AM - 8/26

AND IN THE DISTRICT -- CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICIALS WANT TO RANK PRESCHOOLS. THE RANKING SYSTEM WOULD BE BASED LARGELY ON READING AND MATH TEST SCORES FOR CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 3. ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST... HUNDREDS OF PARENTS SIGNED A PETITION AGAINST THE RANKING SYSTEM. THEY WANT PRESCHOOLS EVALUATED MOSTLY ON A CHILD'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

4:30AM - 9/24

MORE LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN D.C. WILL SOON HAVE INTERNET ACCESS. AT THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NORTHEAST TODAY, COMCAST WILL ANNOUNCE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE D.C. PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE. THEIR MISSION.. TO HELP INCREASE DIGITAL LITERACY. THEY'LL OFFER LOW-COST INTERNET SERVICE AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TO FAMILIES IN THE KENILWORTH-PARKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD IN NORTHEAST.

5AM - 8/2

AS VIRGINIA KICKS OFF ITS TAX FREE HOLIDAY, AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO HELP STRUGGLING FAMILIES. VOLUNTEERS FROM DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER WILL HOLD A "STUFF THE BUCKET" EVENT TODAY. THEY'RE ASKING PEOPLE TO DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES OR MONEY. DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED TODAY FROM NINE A.M. UNTIL 2:30 P.M. THE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE AT K-MARTS IN CHANTILLY AND SPRINGFIELD, AND WAL-MARTS IN DUMFRIES AND WARRENTON.

6AM - 7/11

SEVEN ON YOUR SIDE NOW, IN MOST HOSPITAL DELIVERY ROOMS, DOCTORS ROUTINELY CLAMP AND SEVER THE UMBILICAL CORD LESS THAN A MINUTE AFTER BIRTH. BUT A NEW STUDY FINDS, "DELAYING" CLAMPING FOR AT LEAST A MINUTE AFTER BIRTH IS PREFERABLE. NEWBORNS WITH LATER CLAMPING WERE LESS LIKELY TO END UP BEING IRON-DEFICIENT. AND DELAYED CLAMPING DID NOT INCREASE THE RISKS TO MOTHERS.

12PM - 9/19

THE CHILD CRUELTY CASE AGAINST A STAFFORD COUNTY MOTHER WILL BE DROPPED... IF SHE STOPS SPANKING HER DAUGHTER. A JUDGE AGREED TO DISMISS THE CASE AGAINST FELISHA KIMBLE-TANKS IN TWO YEARS IF SHE COMPLIES. PROSECUTORS SAY KIMBLE-TANKS' 6-YEAR-OLD HAD BRUISES ON HER THIGH AFTER BEING HIT WITH A LEATHER BELT IN JANUARY. THE MOTHER SAID SHE HIT HER DAUGHTER FOR MISBEHAVING IN SCHOOL... BUT DIDN'T MEAN TO BRUISE HER.

ELDERLY & AGING

5AM - 8/19

IN OTHER HEALTH NEWS, THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES OF STROKE CAUSED BY BLOOD CLOTS IN THE BRAIN IS DECREASING AMONG CAUCASIAN AND MEXICAN AMERICANS, ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY. RESEARCHERS FOUND THE INCIDENCE OF STROKE HAS GONE DOWN BY 36 PERCENT AMONG PEOPLE AGES 60 AND OLDER IN THESE DEMOGRAPHICS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2010.

5PM - 7/30

SEVEN IS ON YOUR SIDE... THE GOVERNMENT IS CALLING FOR ANNUAL SCREENING FOR PEOPLE AT HIGH-RISK FOR LUNG CANCER. THE U-S PREVENTATIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE IS RECOMMENDING THAT PEOPLE AGES 55 TO 79 WHO SMOKED A PACK OF CIGARETTES A DAY FOR 30 YEARS... OR TWO PACKS A DAY FOR 15 YEARS... TO RECEIVE ANNUAL C-T SCANS. APPROVAL OF THE PLAN COULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SCANS TO BE COVERED BY INSURANCE.

5PM - 9/4

THINK VIDEO GAMES ARE JUST FOR CHILDREN? A NEW STUDY FOUND THAT GRANDPA MIGHT BENEFIT TOO. RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN SAN FRANCISCO HAD SOME ELDERLY PEOPLE PLAY THEIR NEW 3-D GAME, WHICH TESTS MULTI-TASKING ABILITIES. RESEARCHERS ALSO GAVE OTHER ELDERLY SUBJECTS A DIFFERENT GAME WITHOUT MULTI-TASKING, OR NO GAME AT ALL. THE STUDY FOUND THAT MULTI-TASK GAMERS OUTPERFORMED EVERYONE ELSE ON TESTS OF ATTENTION AND MEMORY.

6PM - 8/8

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE ARE WARNING RESIDENTS ABOUT A NEW SCAM. AN ELDERLY WOMAN AND MAN RECENTLY WERE DUPED. THE SCAM ARTISTS APPROACHED THE VICTIMS IN A SHOPPING CENTER PARKING LOT IN NORTH BETHESDA, AND OFFERED THEM MONEY. BUT ENDED UP STEALING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM THEM.

6PM - 9/26

THERE'S CONCERN TONIGHT THAT PATIENT CARE IS SUFFERING AT A D-C NURSING HOME, BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. AND THAT CONCERN, COMES DIRECTLY FROM EMPLOYEES. THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE AGING CURRENTLY CARES FOR DOZENS OF SENIOR CITIZENS. BUT WORKERS TELL ABC-7, THEIR PAYCHECKS HAVE BEEN LATE, FOOD SERVICE IS STRUGGLING AND THEY'VE EVEN RUN SHORT ON MEDICAL SUPPLIES. THE SON OF A WOMAN WHO DIED THERE YESTERDAY, SAYS THE PROBLEM IS NOTICEABLE.